



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc.
District 9690, New South Wales, Australia



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Printed By Selectprint

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Wednesday, October 22 2008

OCTOBER IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

Once again we have been privileged with an excellent speaker - Adrienne Pearson from Ronald McDonald House left us feeling we should all be much more enthusiastic in everything we do.

Thanks to Neil and Paul for their efforts.

Kevin Freund helped me out due to my prior commitments in attending this month's Presidents' meeting held at Penrith Panthers. Kevin reported back that the meeting went well. District Governor Paul Erickson is happy with the performance of the district so far. One of the ideas that came to the fore was the "education of new Rotarians". This may take the form of an information programme to make new members aware of the full gamut of Rotary. Niall King, Doug Potter, Ted Ingall and his son Brian are to be congratulated for their efforts in the rejuvenation of the MS Euan Watson memorial garden on Saturday - great work guys.

Pride of Workmanship evening - 29th October - a well known guest speaker Mike Bailey plus our awardees - lets fill the room.

Don't like to harp fellows, just making sure you have spared some time for the RYDA programme on the 14th November at Penrith. Meriden is the school involved and it is our duty to support them. Please contact Peter Van der Sleeson.

The dinner dance at Breakfast Point is on the 31st October. Penny and I will be attending and hope to see some of you there.

Our next fun dinner organised by Steve Taylor will be on the 13th November at a local restaurant - mark it in your diary for a fun night.

Eve really appreciated her get well card from us all. She enjoyed every message and is certainly missing Rotary. Eve's stint at Alwyn is continuing and we look forward to her returning as soon as she is able.

Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary

President Grahame

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Performance Improvement, Becoming More Productive and Getting Better Results

Neel Raman

Introduced by Ted Ingall

Thanked by Kevin Beltrame

CONGRATULATIONS

Birthdays

27/10/2008

Katherine Campisi

28/10/2008

Warren Abbott

29/10/2008

John Watkins

Wedding Anniversaries

26/10/2008

Peter & Dee Douglas

Rotary Anniversaries

17 Oct

NIL

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Adrienne Pearson the General Manager of Ronald McDonald House. Adrienne was introduced by Keith Byrne.

Adrienne informed us that the main house can accommodate 18 families and a further 5 families can be accommodated in the five additional units which are located nearby. The house provides accommodation to the families of sick and injured children who are receiving treatment at the Children's Hospital and whose homes are located more than 100 kilometres from the hospital. The mother, father and siblings are provided with accommodation until the child is well enough to return home.

Adrienne gave us an example of a family from Coffs Harbour where the mother had given birth to twins prematurely at 27 weeks. The family were able to stay at the house until the twins were well enough to be flown to Coffs Harbour by air ambulance. The father was able to work in Sydney during their stay and the house was able to assist with the care of the other member of the family, a three year old girl, during their stay.

Adrienne in her role becomes part of these families' lives while they are going through this tough time. Mothers are very distressed at having a seriously ill child and it is

important for the fathers to be present to support the mother and the other children.

The house was the first Ronald McDonald House outside of the United States. A doctor from the Children's Hospital had seen the great benefits provided by such a facility in the United States and had approached McDonalds on his return and they generously agreed to his request.

Adrienne pointed out that families that have used the house are very appreciative and frequently look for opportunities to give back. This also extends to the grandparents of the children. Adrienne also advised that many corporations assist by donating bread, milk, tea and other goods used at the house. A Rotary Club member had seen the need for shade sails at the house and following donations of materials and a cash donation from the Club the sails were erected at minimal cost.

Groups such as the Girl Guides and corporations occasionally prepare dinner for all the residents. These dinner nights provide an opportunity for the residents to have a chat with someone about what is happening in their lives.

McDonalds apart from assisting with the set up costs also assist with the annual expenses. Westpac has also assisted by providing an interest free loan in relation to part of the purchase price for the additional five units.

There are now 300 Ronald McDonald Houses around the world. Regular conferences are held for the general managers to meet and learn from each other.

Adrienne also advised us of the lengths that she and the others at the house will go to ensure that the families get the best treatment possible. For example Adrienne insists on using the best mattresses on the beds so that people staying at the house can get the best nights sleep possible in their stressful circumstances. Adrienne also told us about Madie aged eight who was an Australian Idol fan and despite being in intensive care was able to attend the final at the Opera House and meet the contestants and the judges!

After answering questions Adrienne was thanked by Angelo Franco.

Last Club Meeting's Statistics

Visitors: - NIL

Attendance: 35

Apologies: 18

Non-Apologies: 7

LOA: Silma Ihram, Tony Lanzafame till 29/10

Exempt Members: - 5

The Sergeant raised \$150

Last Club Meeting's Raffle

(The Raffle raised \$225)

1 st Prize	Red Wine	Steve Taylor
2 nd Prize	Book	Doug Potter
3 rd Prize	Fan	Peter Smith
4 th Prize	Dinner next week	Ray Wilson

LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Grahame True

- Welcome back to Connie Galletta, David Croft and Peter Harries
- Eve Dutton is recovering in Alwin Hospital. A "Get Well" was circulated for Club members.
- Reminder of Breakfast Point Rotary Dinner Dance on 31st October 2008. Email:- tadams3@tpg.com.au for further details
- Invitation from Northcott Society for Club members to attend their AGM. Contact Grahame if you wish to attend
- Reminder of Burwood Rotary Melbourne Cup Night on Mon. 3rd November 2008. Contact Grahame if you wish to attend
- A Golfing Club Member is needed to liaise with the District Conference organisers
- Careflight Books - \$20, Crew Bear - \$45. Little Care Flight Bear - \$20. See Grahame
- Commitment Sheet for Pride of Workmanship Awards Night is circulating. Recipients of the awards are excited about the Night

From Secretary Allan Petersen

- Board Meeting after next week's meeting
- The 2014 RI Convention in Sydney is seeking ideas from Rotarians to make the event successful.
- The Club Caterer is asking for Menu suggestions from Members

From Niall King

- Organising a "Working Bee" at the Lidcombe MS Centre Garden next Saturday 18th October

From Paul Giammarco

- The Inbound GSE Team from South Brazil will need Vocational Visits, accommodation, etc.

USE YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DURING VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Rotarians have put Service Above Self for more than a century. Through Vocational Service, Rotarians serve others through their professions and promote high ethical standards. In honor of Vocational Service Month, encourage members to apply the skills and talents they use in their professions to your Club's Service Projects. Or, create new projects that tap into your Club's collective talent. To discover members' unique skills, members of the membership or Service Projects Committees could conduct a skills inventory to determine a service project that maximizes their Club's professional abilities.

COMING EVENTS

23rd October 2008. (Thursday)

District Championship Golf Day
Strathfield Golf Club. \$70pp including BBQ

23rd October 2008.

Performance of AIDA

Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.

Proceeds to Australian Rotary Health. . \$30pp

31st October 2008.

Breakfast Point Rotary Dinner Dance

Email:- tadams3@tpg.com.au for further details

2nd November 2008.

FAMILY OF ROTARY CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

CLUB MARCONI, Marconi Plaza, Prairie Vale Road,
Bossley Park. 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

\$5pp or \$20 family of 5. Phone: 45 779504

3rd November 2008 (Monday)

Burwood Rotary Melbourne Cup Night

Burwood RSL at 6:30pm. \$25pp

10th December 2008. (Wednesday)

Charity Children's Christmas Party

Sydney Showgrounds, Olympic Park, Halls 3 & 4,

Volunteers needed on Mon, Tues & Weds

14th February 2009.

Dinner at the Duxbury's

An evening of Victorian Elegance

19th February 2009. (Thursday)

Trish Charity Golf Day & Dinner

Strathfield Golf Club

6th – 8th March 2009.

District Conference

Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

29th October 2008

**Pride of Workmanship Awards,
PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm**

Introduced by Peter Smith

5th November 2008

Experiences with Vision Australia

Nick Gleeson & Jo Anne Reeves

Introduced by Ian Johnson Thanked by Roger Vince

12th November 2008

Judicial Reminiscences

Justice Terry Sheahan

Introduced by Paul White Thanked by Bert Houston

19th November 2008

The Centurion Program

PDG Warwick Tester PP Lyn Tester

Introduced by Harley Tarrant Thanked by Janelle Watson

Rotaract

Aaron Sivasothy

Introduced by Bradley Ayres Thanked by Godfrey Isouard

26th November 2008

Muslim Culture and Australian Integration

Silma Ihram

PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm

Introduced by Rod McDougall Thanked by Kevin Freund

3rd December 2008

AGM and Elections

10th December 2008

Christmas Party (Rotarians)

17th December 2008

Christmas Party (Children)

24th December 2008

NO MEETING

31st December 2008

NO MEETING

7th January 2009

Restaurant Social Evening (Venue TBA)

14th January 2009

Bowls Social Evening

South Strathfield Bowling Club, Augusta Street

21st January 2009

Club Assembly

28th January 2009

Bushcare and Other Community Environmental Issues

Jeanie Muspratt, Environmental Projects Officer, Strathfield Council

4th February 2009

Men's Shed

Peter Sergeant

**Guest Speaker
12 Nov 2008**

**JUSTICE TERENCE SHEAHAN AO
JUDICIAL REMINISCENCES**

Neil Kennan and Paul White have been successful in securing the availability of Justice Terry Sheahan to address our club.

This will be a unique opportunity to hear from a man who has played a key role in shaping the administration of justice in New South Wales and to learn first hand something of how judges go about their work.

A distinguished judge, legal practitioner, politician, company director, consultant and advocate of dispute resolution reform, Terry is currently a Judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales.

Among many notable roles, he was previously Attorney General in the Wran government and New South Wales Labor Party State President.

Our club will be privileged to welcome him as a guest and to enjoy his after-dinner reminiscences (both humorous and serious) covering many years.

Feel free to invite your colleagues to what promises to be a very enjoyable evening.



HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

New Drug Use

From Grahame Truee

All men take note:
'Viagra' is now available in powder form for your tea.
It doesn't enhance your sexual performance but it does stop your biscuit going soft.

One Liners

From Angelo Franco

1. Two Irishmen walk into a building.....you'd think at least one of them would have seen it.
2. Phone answering machine message - '...If you want to buy marijuana, press the # key...'
3. A guy walks into the psychiatrist wearing only Glad Wrap for shorts. The shrink says, 'Well, I can clearly see you're nuts.'
4. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.
5. I went to the butcher's the other day and I bet him \$50 that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, 'No, the steaks are too high.'
6. My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.
7. A man came round in hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, 'Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!' The doctor replied, 'I know you can't, I've cut your arms off'.
8. I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a mussle.
9. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.
10. Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.
11. Man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head. Doc says 'I'll give you some cream to put on it.'
12. 'Doc I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home' 'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome. 'Is it common?' 'It's not unusual.'
13. A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet. 'My dog is cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?' 'Well,' said the vet, 'let's have a look at him' So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then he checks his teeth. Finally, he says, 'I'm going to have to put him down.' 'What? Just because he's cross-eyed?' 'No, because he's REALLY heavy'
14. Guy goes into the doctor's. 'Doc, I've got a cricket ball stuck up my backside.' 'How's that?'-- 'Don't you start.'
15. Two elephants walk off a cliff...boom, boom!
16. What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.
17. So I was getting into my car, and this bloke says to me 'Can you give me a lift?' I said 'Sure, you look great, the world's your oyster, go for it.'
18. Apparently, 1 in 5 people in the world are Chinese. There are 5 people in my family, so it must be one of them. It's either my Mum or my Dad, or my older Brother Colin, or my younger Brother Ho-Cha-Chu? But I think its Colin.

19. Two fat blokes in a pub, one says to the other 'Your round.' The other one says 'So are you, you fat bast**d!'
20. Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, and the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.
21. The blonde said 'You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen. It said, 'Parking Fine.' So I thought that was really nice.'
22. A man walked into the doctor's, he said, 'I've hurt my arm in several places'. The doctor said, 'Well don't go there anymore'

Spaghetti

From Shirley Del Prado

For several years, a man was having an affair with an Italian woman.
One night, she confided in him that she was pregnant. Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage. He paid her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to secretly have the child.
If she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18. She agreed, but asked how he would know when the baby was born.
To keep it discrete, he told her to simply mail him a post card, and write 'Spaghetti' on the back. He would then arrange for the child support payments to begin.
One day, about 9 months later, he came home to his confused wife. 'Honey, 'she said, 'You received a very strange post card today.'
'Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later,' he said. The wife obeyed and watched as her husband read the card, turned white, and fainted.
On the card was written: 'Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti. Three with meatballs, two without. Send extra sauce.'

The Messenger

From Grahame Truee

Six retired Irishmen were playing poker in O'Leary's apartment when Paddy Murphy loses £500 on a single hand, clutches his chest, and drops dead at the table. Showing respect for their fallen brother, the other five continue playing standing up.
Michael O'Conner looks around and asks, "Oh, me boys, someone got's to tell Paddy's wife. Who will it be?" They draw straws. Paul Gallagher picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse.
"Discreet??? I'm the most discreet Irishmen you'll ever meet. Discretion is me middle name. Leave it to me." Gallagher goes over to Murphy's house and knocks on the door. Mrs. Murphy answers, and asks what he wants. Gallagher declares, "Your husband just lost \$500, and is afraid to come home."
"Tell him to drop dead!" says Murphy's wife.
"I'll go tell him." says Gallagher.